MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) No. An estimate has been sanctioned for Rs. 810, and it is proposed to take up the work in 1108.

Promotion of an Assistant Surgeon.

267. MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any officer in the Medical Department in the grade of an Assistant Surgeon whose promotion was barred on account of grave irregularities in his official career;

(*b*) whether the said officer was given promotion contrary to the previous proceedings; and

(*c*) whether the grave irregularities were condoned by the Government?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) and (*c*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), these do not arise.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): May I know the name of the Deputy Surgeon who was promoted?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): May I know who is the senior-most Assistant Surgeon?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

Investing the Protector of the Depressed Classes with powers for registering lands.

268. MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the reason for not investing the Protecter of the Depressed Classes with powers of registry of the lands reserved for such classes?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The following extract from the G. O. defining the functions of the Protector of the Depressed Classes deals with his duties relating to land:—

"One of the most important functions of the Protector will be the selection and assignment of lands for the landless among the depressed classes. Some lands have already been reserved for them: but there is a complaint that the reservations made are not fair, that the land selected are generally unsuitable for habitation or cultivation and that they are generally inaccessible and far removed from places where the people generally have their work. It will be the duty of the Protector to inspect these areas to see if the lands are suitable and adequate and to revise the list of such lands, rejecting unsuitable areas and adding those which he considers as suitable.

The Protector should encourage the forming of settlements of the depressed classes in places where sufficiently extensive blocks of land can be set apart for them.

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He will have no power of registry himself but he should be the medium of communication with the Land Revenue authorities in the matter and should constantly bring pressure to bear on the latter so that the registries may be expedited. In cases of differences of opinion between the Protector and the Land Revenue Officers in regard to the registry of any paricular area, the Protector will place the matter before Government."

The Revenue Department is the proper agency for the assignment of land. The Protector has neither the staff nor the facility which the Revenue Officers can command. Besides, the Protectors's duties cover a wide field and it is thought inexpedient to burden him with additional work, particularly in the early stages.

Appointment of the Protector of the Depressed Classes.

269. **MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara*) : With reference to the recent appointment of a Protector of the Depressed Classes, will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) what the qualifications of the officer selected for the post are, which particularly qualify him for the post ; and

(*b*) why they have combined the post with that of the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Mr. C. O. Damodaran, B. Sc., Ag. Assistant Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, who has been selected for appointment as Protector of Depressed Classes, belongs to a backward community and has besides gained in his official capacity intimate acquintance with the needs and aspirations of the depressed classes, most of whom are agricultural labourers. This is a new appointment in the State and as such it would not be possible to secure the services of an officer who is specially qualified for the post. Government propose to give Mr. Damodaran training for six weeks each in the Madras Presidency and in the Mysore State where similar officers are employed.

(*b*) The Protector of Depressed Classes is an Assistant to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies only for administrative convenience. He will be full-time Protector. It is also felt that Co-operative Societies will be the best agency for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes.

Import of bad rice into the State.

270. **MR. M. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the steps they have taken to prevent the import of bad rice into the State either through sea or land?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Government have no information that bad rice is imported into this State through sea or land.

Houses destroyed by floods in Parur during 1105.

271. **MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI** (*Purur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

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